



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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UKRAINE

Together for Health Project Launched in Lutsk

On May 4, the Together for Health Project (TfH), launched its activities in Volyn Oblast at a ceremony and press conference in Lutsk. Volyn joins Kharkiv, Lviv and Poltava as the fourth oblast where TfH is working. During the launch ceremony, the head of the TfH project and the Oblast Health Department signed a partnership convention to jointly implement the project.



Asta-Maria Kenney (left), TfH chief of party, signed a partnership convention with Ihor Vaschenuk (right), Head of the Oblast Health Department

The Volyn Oblast Health Department was one of the winners in a competition conducted by the project to identify the oblasts most committed to improving family planning and reproductive health. Its proposal emphasized working with a broad range of health workers, pharmacists, medical education establishments and others to bring health services closer to Ukrainians. It prioritized young people as a key group to be reached. The partnership plan is to work in three Volyn cities, Lutsk, Kovel and Novovolynsk, and several rural counties.

TfH is a five-year project that seeks to improve the health of women, men and families by helping Ukrainians adopt modern family planning and

reproductive health practices. Specifically, it aims to encourage a shift from high utilization of abortion to use of modern contraception, which will contribute to improved health for women and children, and reduced levels of infertility, as well as prevent HIV and sexually transmitted infections.

Berdiansk Bond Issuance Receives Ministry of Finance Approval

Ukraine's Ministry of Finance in early May approved a city of Berdiansk bond issue of 10 million UAH. USAID's Access to Credit Initiative assisted the city in the bond issuance preparation process, including helping to make an initial financial assessment, providing support for a credit rating, and advising the city on debt market conditions, underwriter selection and legal requirements for bond issuance, including Ministry of Finance approval. The bond is anticipated to be issued in July, after an underwriter is selected and the State Stock Markets and Securities Commission registers the issuance. The city will use the proceeds for city infrastructure development.

The purpose of the Access to Credit project is to mobilize credit for small and medium businesses, prospective homeowners, farmers and municipalities. This project aims to provide a new generation of Ukrainians with access to mortgages; to loans to farmers to finance their agricultural production and to municipalities to upgrade their infrastructure and services. At the same time, the project seeks to provide Ukrainian banks and non-banking financial institutions with a greater capacity to make business and home loans.

Ukrainian Civil Servants to Learn from European Experience

The Institute of Social Transformation Counsel organized an intensive, three-day training seminar

for civil servants in regional and local government in April 2007.

The seminar, financed by USAID and the Robert Bosch Foundation, also kicked off an international stipend program, "Public Administration: Transferring Skills from Central Europe to Ukraine." Invitations to the seminar were extended to 30 civil servants, from a list of 80 applicants. Of these, 12 participants were granted scholarships for internships to Central Europe. The internship program will start with an orientation in Krakow, Poland, followed by practical training for five-weeks at public administration institutions in Poland and Hungary. Upon their return, the participants will gather to share lessons learned and discuss ways to apply what they learned to their work in Ukraine.

The Institute of Social Transformation Counsel received their grant through the USAID-funded Eurasia Foundation, which implements the Promoting Democracy & Market Reform program in Ukraine. The Eurasia Foundation makes small grants on an ongoing basis to facilitate the transition from centrally planned to market economies and to encourage improvement of public service delivery and greater citizen involvement in civic decision making.

Waste Management Training Becoming a Priority for Local Authorities

The Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) held a Waste Management Training-of-Trainers on April 11-12 within the framework of the Expanding Training and Advocacy Services (ETAS) Project.



Trainers-to-be receive practical knowledge in waste management

Twenty-five trainers received certificates enabling them to conduct course trainings at AUC Regional Offices.

Trainers from all AUC Regional Offices were trained on the following topics: 1) initial stages in reforming a waste management system, 2) public involvement, and 3) strategic and operational planning.

The training provided them information on modern approaches to collecting, managing and recycling solid domestic waste and how to introduce new procedures in their communities and reduce the harm being inflicted to the environment.

Upcoming Events

May 22, Promoting Active Citizen Engagement in Combating Corruption in Ukraine project, presentation and round table dedicated to the announcement of the results of the 2007 Baseline National Survey **"The State of Corruption in Ukraine,"** Kyiv.

May 22, Together for Health project, Project Launch, Dnipropetrovsk.

May 30 – June 1, Mission Director to visit projects' sites in Berdyansk and Mariupol.

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M O L D O V A

USAID Study Shows Demand for Leasing in Moldova

A countrywide study on the opportunities and business preferences for commercial leasing in the winemaking, apparel and footwear, and agribusiness and agro-processing sectors found high unmet demand.

The study, entitled "Growing Economic Sectors and Opportunities for Commercial Leasing," estimated the potential market for equipment and machinery in these three important industries. It found that the potential for commercial leasing within the next two years could reach \$100 million in winemaking, \$17 million in light industry, and

\$24 million in agro-processing. It also revealed a high level of interest in the private sector to access leasing. The study showed, however, a need for better product awareness and development of leasing products tailored to these industries.



The director of TRIAGO PRIM and IMC Leasing's commercial director discuss their plans for collaboration

The study was released on April 12 to over 40 representatives of local leasing companies, commercial banks, and insurance companies. The research was commissioned by two USAID projects: the Competitiveness Enhancement and Enterprise Development Project (CEED) and the Agribusiness Development Project (ADP).

Upcoming Events

May 25, Citizen Participation Program (CPP), Radio Show "The Voice of Communities" on Radio Moldova Station, Chisinau.

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BELARUS

Business Educators and Leaders Convene for Conference and Forum in Belarus

In April, the New Eurasia Establishment (NEE), a USAID grantee and Eurasia Foundation partner in Belarus, organized a conference for business educators and a forum for young leaders,

educators and students in business, both held in Minsk.

The sixth international conference, "Contemporary Business Education in Belarus: Meeting the Challenges," gathered educators and education policy makers to discuss current trends and challenges that face higher education in Belarus. The conference focused on information technology, including emphasizing the value of introducing distance learning and other computer-based methods into the teaching process.



NEE's Zhanna Filippova presenting at the business forum in Minsk

The second annual business forum, "Belarus' Innovative Economy: Challenges, Management Technologies and Effectiveness," brought together over 300 business leaders, education professionals, and students. Forum topics included: the future of business education, post-graduate employment, and professional development for MBAs. International experts in business education, foreign direct investment, project management and evaluation from Greece, Ukraine, Russia and Netherlands attended the forum, presenting reflections on international business trends relevant to Belarus, and participating in a panel discussion.

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